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JPW/ATF 61
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that on December 10, 2004, which is the date I am signing this certificate, I am depositing this correspondence the United States Postal Service, first class mail, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Ann Pommier
Ann Pommier

Applicant: Ng, William

Serial No.: 09/470,041

Filed: 12/22/1999

Title: INITIATION OF BIDDING IN A
VIRTUAL TRADE FINANCIAL
ENVIRONMENT

Atty. Docket No.: 060021-339701

Examiner: Cuff, Michael A.

Group Art Unit: 3627

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.56

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicant brings the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 to the examiner's attention. 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. These references may be material to examination of the above-identified application. Please do not construe the filing of this information disclosure statement as a representation that applicant has made a search (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)), or as an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. We enclose copies of the cited documents within a box herewith.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted:

- ☐ 1. Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d), or within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and therefore, Applicant believes no fee is required;
- ☒ 2. After the period specified in paragraph (1) hereinabove of this section, but is being filed before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR 1.113, or a notice of allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and is accompanied by one of the following:

- ☐ (a) A statement that either:
- (i) Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement;
- OR
- (ii) No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement;

OR

- ☒ (b) The fee of \$180 for filing of an Information Disclosure Statement as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p).

- ☐ 3. After the period specified in paragraph (2) of this section, but is filed on or before payment of the issue fee and is accompanied by both:

- ☐ (a) A statement that either:
- (i) Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement;
- OR
- (ii) No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement;

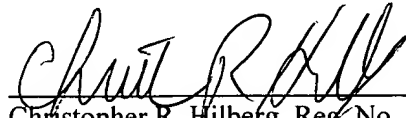
- ☐ (b) The fee of \$180.00 for filing of an Information Disclosure Statement as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).

Applicant would appreciate the Examiner initialing and signing a copy of Form PTO-1449, transmitted herewith, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or

other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 50-1901** referencing order number 060021-339701.

December 9, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris R. Hilberg", written over a horizontal line.

Christopher R. Hilberg, Reg. No. 48,740
Attorney for Applicant

OPPENHEIMER WOLFF & DONNELLY LLP
Plaza VII, Suite 3300
45 South Seventh Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 607-7386 • Fax: (612) 607-7100

Substitution for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known		
				Application Number	09/470,041	
				Filing Date	Dec-22-1999	
				First Named Inventor	Ng, William	
				Art Unit	3627	
				Examiner Name	Cuff, Michael A.	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number		60021-339701

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Issue Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	-Kind Code ² (if known)		
	1	5,305,200		04/1994	Hartheimer et al.
	2	5,717,989 A		02/10/1998	Torzoli et al.
	3	6,339,766 A		01/15/2001	Gephart
	4	6,463,419 A		10/08/2002	Kliss

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	T ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T ²
Examiner Signature			Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.